

a tubular body portion extending longitudinally between a first end and a second end, said body portion having a generally cylindrical outer surface and a generally cylindrical inner surface defining a fluid passageway between said first and second ends;

a cylindrical neck portion extending from said second end of the body portion to a front face and having an outer peripheral rim and an inner rim defining a center opening in fluid communication with said fluid passageway of said body portion;

B2 a pair of spaced apart locking lugs projecting outwardly from said outer surface and positioned between said first and second ends of said body portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant; and

a pair of spaced apart arcuate shaped locking grooves recessed in said front face of said neck portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hose, said locking grooves defined by a bottom surface recessed from said front face of said neck portion and extending between spaced apart first and second end walls defining said grooves and upstanding, parallel and curved inner and outer walls projecting upwardly from said bottom surface to said front face and extending between said first and second end walls.

Please cancel claim 2.

Please amend claim 3 as follows:

B3 A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 1, wherein each of said locking grooves are further defined by a ramped section adjacent said second end wall and inclining from said bottom surface towards said front face for releasing the fire hose from engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Please cancel claim 4.

Please amend claim 5 as follows:

B4 A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 3, wherein each of said locking grooves are further defined by including a lip projecting radially inwardly from a portion of said outer wall toward said

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inner wall and extending from said first end wall to a distal end and forming a top surface of said groove spaced from and parallel to said bottom surface and defining an L-shaped cross-section.

Please amend claim 6 as follows:

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4. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim 3, wherein said top surface of said lip includes an inclined section extending from said end toward said first end wall for receiving and guiding the fire hose into engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

5. A hydrant nozzle for connecting a fire hose to a fire hydrant, said hydrant nozzle comprising:

a tubular body portion extending along a longitudinal axis between a first end and a second end, said body portion having a generally cylindrical outer surface and a generally cylindrical inner surface defining a fluid passageway between said first and second ends, said body portion adapted to be received and removably secured to the fire hydrant;

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a cylindrical neck portion extending radially from said body portion between said second end to a front face and having an outer peripheral rim and an inner rim defining a center opening in fluid communication with said fluid passageway of said body portion; and

a pair of spaced apart arcuate shaped locking grooves recessed in said front face of said neck portion for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hose, said locking grooves defined by a bottom surface recessed from said front face of said neck portion and extending between spaced apart first and second end walls defining said grooves and upstanding, parallel and curved inner and outer walls projecting upwardly from said bottom surface to said front face and extending between said first and second end walls.

Please cancel claim 8.

Please amend claim 9 as follows:

a7 ~~9~~⁵. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~7~~⁵, wherein each of said locking grooves are further defined by a ramped section adjacent said second end wall and inclining from said bottom surface towards said front face for releasing the fire hose from engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Please cancel claim 10.

Please amend claim 11 as follows:

a8 ~~11~~⁶. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~9~~⁶, wherein each of said locking grooves as further defined by including a lip projecting radially inwardly from a portion of said outer wall toward said inner wall and extending from said first end wall to a distal end and forming a top surface of said groove spaced from and parallel to said bottom surface and defining an L-shaped cross-section.

Please amend claim 12 as follows:

a9 ~~12~~⁸. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~11~~⁷, wherein said top surface of said lip includes an inclined section extending from said end toward said first end wall for receiving and guiding the fire hose into engagement with said hydrant nozzle.

Please amend claim 13 as follows:

a10 ~~13~~⁹. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~12~~⁸, further including a plurality of threads disposed on said outer surface of said body portion between said first and second ends for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant.

Please amend claim 14 as follows:

a11 ~~14~~¹⁰. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~13~~⁸, further including a pair of spaced apart locking lugs projecting outwardly from said outer surface of said body portion and positioned between said first and second ends for removably securing said hydrant nozzle to the fire hydrant.

Please amend claim 15 as follows:

012 15. A hydrant nozzle as set forth in claim ~~14~~¹⁰, wherein said locking lugs extend along an arcuate path generally transverse to said longitudinal axis of said body portion.